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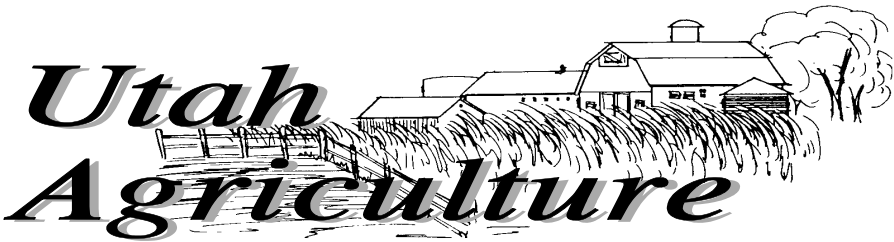
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

**Issue No. 17-04** (a semi-monthly report) **Released: August 31, 2004**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**  
*Agricultural Prices*  
*U.S. Cold Storage*  
*Livestock Slaughter*  
*U.S. Egg Production*  
*U.S. Cattle on Feed*  
*Farm Labor*

### Agricultural Prices

**Utah:** Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-August 2004, compared with July 2004, were down for barley and alfalfa hay, with other hay remaining the same according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. The lamb price for July 2004 was \$103.00 per cwt, up \$17.00 from August 2003. The July 2004 sheep price, at \$33.00 was \$7.00 above August 2003. Barley, at \$2.17 per bushel, was down 25 cents from the previous month's price and 8 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$87.00 per ton, down \$3.00 from last month and \$4.00 above last year. Other hay, at \$80.00 per ton, was the same as last month and \$8.00 higher than August 2003.

**United States:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.2 percent) below the July Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index, declined 2 points (1.7 percent) from July while the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (4.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, and cantaloup. Lower prices were received for broilers, soybeans, dairy, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (10 percent) from August 2003.

The Food Commodities Index declined 3 points (2.4 percent) from last month to 124. The index stands 14 points (13 percent) above August 2003.

### Farm Labor

**MOUNTAIN REGION II:** (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of July 11-17, 2004 there were 23,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$9.47 per hour, down 37 cents from April 2004 and 37 cents higher than the national average. Field workers received \$8.63 per hour on average, down \$1.03 cents from April 2004. Livestock workers received \$9.39 per hour, up 56 cents from April 2004.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.57 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, July 11-17, 2004 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region	Hired							
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I <sup>2</sup>	34	24	10	47.8	7.91	7.89	7.90	8.23
Mountain II <sup>3</sup>	23	16	7	41.1	8.63	9.39	8.90	9.47
Mountain III <sup>4</sup>	24	21	3	45.0	7.45	8.24	7.73	8.34
US	953	637	316	39.3	8.42	8.75	8.50	9.10

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers. <sup>2</sup> Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. <sup>3</sup> Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. <sup>4</sup> Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

**Average Prices Received by Farmers**

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Aug 2003	Jul 2004	Aug 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Aug 2003	Jul 2004	Aug 2004 <sup>1</sup>
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	86.00	103.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	88.60	102.00	( <sup>2</sup> )
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	26.00	33.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	29.20	37.40	( <sup>2</sup> )
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.25	2.42	2.17	2.91	2.54	2.45
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	83.00	90.00	87.00	91.90	98.40	97.40
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	72.00	80.00	80.00	66.70	70.90	70.00

<sup>1</sup> Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

<sup>2</sup> August data will be published next month.

## U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for orange juice, beef, cheese, frozen fruit, chicken, and vegetables. Butter stocks were down slightly from last month, and down 34 percent from a year ago. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were up 1 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from last month and down 16 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 37 percent from last month and down 27 percent from last year. **Total frozen poultry supplies** on July 31, 2004 were 2 percent lower than the previous month and 3 percent lower than a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 5 percent from the previous month, but 13 percent higher than last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 1 percent from last month, but down 17 percent from July 31, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States			
Commodity	Jul 31, 2003	Jun 30, 2004	Jul 31, 2004
1,000 Pounds			
<b>Total Frozen</b>			
Eggs . . . . .	18,570	18,256	16,726
Chicken . . . . .	635,590	756,660	716,252
Turkey . . . . .	722,543	595,662	603,206
Total Poultry	1,363,167	1,353,258	1,320,430
Cherries, Tart			
RTP . . . . .	69,005	17,357	80,043
Juice . . . . .	1,275	993	1,108
Cherries, Sweet . .	8,881	5,129	9,573
Potatoes . . . . .	1,130,439	1,127,452	1,117,009
Beef . . . . .	368,248	411,267	422,818
Pork . . . . .	440,654	379,659	370,874
Lamb & Mutton	5,929	3,872	4,096
Total Meat . . . . .	825,019	804,023	808,053
<b>Total in Storage</b>			
Apples, Fresh . . . .	410,362	558,004	274,290
Butter . . . . .	283,879	187,183	187,116
Cheese, Natural . .			
American . . . . .	552,455	590,292	621,530
Swiss . . . . .	28,896	24,108	28,697
Other Natural . . .	227,612	227,342	224,626

## Livestock Slaughter

**UTAH: Commercial red meat production** totaled 34.2 million pounds in July 2004, 14.3 percent below July of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for July 2004 totaled 44,700 head, 16.1 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,203 pounds, up 31 pounds from July 2004. **Hog slaughter** totaled 3,200 head, down 1,300 head from July 2003. The average live weight was 226 pounds, 5 pounds above the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during July 2004 totaled 2,400 head, 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight, at 128 pounds, remained the same as the previous year.

**UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in July, down 8 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in July 2003. **Beef production**, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 14 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 15 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,239 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 13.4 million pounds, 9 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,000 head, down 19 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 325 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, slightly below July 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 262 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.2 million pounds, was down 10 percent from July 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago. **January to July 2004 commercial red meat production** was 26.0 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

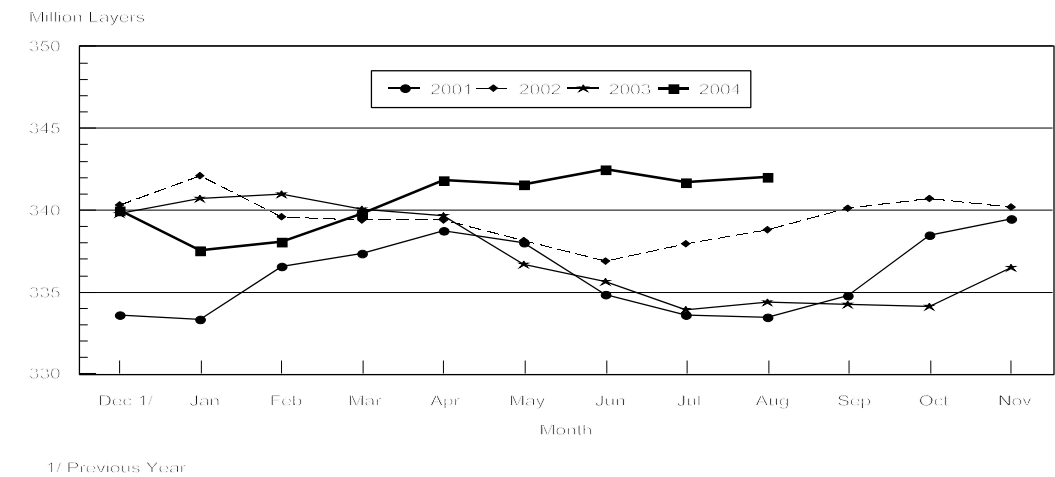
Commercial Livestock Slaughter, July 2003-2004 <sup>1</sup>					
Item	Utah		United States		
	July		July		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	
<b>Production (Million Pounds)</b>					
Red Meat . . . .	39.9	34.2	4,050.1	3,707.6	
<b>Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)</b>					
Cattle . . . . .	53.3	44.7	3,290.2	2,787.3	
Calves . . . . .	1	1	84.9	69.0	
Hogs . . . . .	4.5	3.2	8,116.1	8,094.8	
Sheep & Lamb	2.6	2.4	239.8	220.8	
<b>Average Live Weight (Pounds)</b>					
Cattle . . . . .	1,172	1,203	1,225	1,239	
Calves . . . . .	1	1	289	325	
Hogs . . . . .	221	226	262	262	
Sheep & Lamb	128	128	131	128	

<sup>1</sup> Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## US May Egg Production Up 2 Percent

**U.S. egg production** totaled 7.54 billion during July 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.45 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,207 eggs, down slightly from July 2003. July 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 5 Saturdays, 1 holiday compared to July 2003 which contained 23 weekdays, 4 Saturdays and 1 holiday.

### All Layers: 1st of Month United States , 2001 - 2004



## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.85 million head on August 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2003 but 3 percent below August 1, 2002. **Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.72 million, 14 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.66 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 440,000, 600-699 pounds were

325,000, 700-799 pounds were 499,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 456,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.93 million, 15 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 58,000 during July, 3 percent below 2003 but 29 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000 + Capacity Feedlots, United States, August 1, 2002- 2004					
Item	Number			2004 as % of	
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003
..... 1,000 Head ..... Percent .....					
On Feed Jul 1 <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	10,507	9,923	10,117	96	102
Placed on Feed during Jul . . . . .	1,840	1,997	1,720	93	86
Fed Cattle Marketed during Jul. . . . .	2,193	2,270	1,926	88	85
Other Disappearance during Jul <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	45	60	58	129	97
On Feed Aug 1 <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	10,109	9,590	9,853	97	103

<sup>1</sup> Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. <sup>2</sup> Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.